

103D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 421

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit separate payment under part B of the medicare program for the interpretation of electrocardiograms provided by a physician during a visit, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 5, 1993

Mr. TORRICELLI introduced the following bill; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit separate payment under part B of the medicare program for the interpretation of electrocardiograms provided by a physician during a visit, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the "Medicare EKG Pay-
5 ment Restoration Act of 1993".

1 **SEC. 2. PERMITTING SEPARATE PAYMENT FOR INTERPRE-**
2 **TATION OF EKGS PROVIDED DURING OFFICE**
3 **VISITS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1848(b) of the Social Se-
5 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(b)) is amended by striking
6 paragraph (3).

7 (b) DEVELOPMENT OF SEPARATE FEE SCHEDULE
8 AMOUNTS FOR EKG INTERPRETATIONS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
10 Human Services shall establish separate fee schedule
11 amounts under section 1848(b) of the Social Secu-
12 rity Act for the interpretation of electrocardiograms
13 performed or ordered to be performed as part of or
14 in conjunction with a visit to or consultation with a
15 physician.

16 (2) ADJUSTMENT OF FEE SCHEDULES FOR OF-
17 FICE VISITS.—With respect to physicians' services
18 consisting of visits to or consultations with a physi-
19 cian, the Secretary shall adjust the relative values
20 established for such services under section 1848(b)
21 of the Social Security Act to reflect the establish-
22 ment of separate fee schedule amounts under para-
23 graph (1).

24 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
25 subsection (a) and the provisions of subsection (b) shall
26 apply to services furnished on or after January 1, 1993.

1 **SEC. 3. GUIDELINES AND STUDIES RELATING TO UTILIZA-**
2 **TION OF ELECTROCARDIOGRAMS.**

3 (a) DEVELOPMENT OF PRACTICE GUIDELINES.—Not
4 later than 6 months after the date of the enactment, the
5 Secretary of Health and Human Services (acting through
6 the Administrator of the Agency for Health Care Policy
7 and Research) shall—

8 (1) establish practice guidelines for electro-
9 cardiograms for the use of physicians, and shall dis-
10 seminate the guidelines and other educational infor-
11 mation relating to the use of electrocardiograms to
12 physicians; and

13 (2) develop a profile of the use of electrocardio-
14 grams by physicians.

15 (b) STUDY OF UTILIZATION AND COSTS OF EKGs.—

16 (1) STUDY.—The Secretary of Health and
17 Human Services (acting through the Administrator
18 of the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research)
19 shall conduct a study of the utilization and costs of
20 electrocardiograms, and shall include in the study an
21 analysis of the effects of the amendment made by
22 section 2(a) and the provisions of section 2(b) on
23 such utilization and costs.

24 (2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2
25 years after the effective date of the final regulations
26 promulgated by the Secretary of Health and Human



1 Services to carry out the amendment made by sec-
2 tion 2(a) and the provisions of section 2(b), the Sec-
3 retary shall submit a report on the study conducted
4 under paragraph (1) to Congress.

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